

REMARKS

Claims 13-14, 25-26 and 28-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 15-19, 35, 37-64 and 66 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein and claims 13-14 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 13-14, 25-26 and 28-30 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-4, 6, 8, 10-11, 15-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Sakamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,453); claims 1-2 and 66 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakamoto in view of Gleim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,146,528); claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakamoto in view of Yoshimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,585,934); claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakamoto in view of Rilly (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,017); claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakamoto in view of Escallon (U.S. Patent No. 5,799,157); claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakamoto in view of Jung (U.S. Patent No. 5,109,284); and claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sakamoto in view of Torres et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,738,075). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 15-19, 35 and 37-66 renders their rejections moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 14 were objected to for depending on an unallowable claim, but claims 13 and 14 are now amended into independent form and are thus now allowable. Claims 25, 26 and 28-30 have already been found allowable by the Patent Office.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 13-14, 25-26 and 28-30 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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